

Salem leaves S. Arabia after talks

BAHRAIN (R) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem left for home Sunday after two days of talks with Saudi officials on the Lebanese situation, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The agency later quoted Mr. Salem as having said his discussions with the Saudi leaders covered the Lebanese problem and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the country. "We have also discussed Lebanon's future activities in the coming few weeks which will need extensive coordination and consultations with our Arab brothers," it quoted him as saying. "King Fahd has played a mediation role and helped us in the past and will have a future role on which we are consulting him," Mr. Salem added without elaboration.

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Shultz confers with Moroccan king

RABAT (R) — United States Secretary of State George Shultz Sunday met King Hassan II of Morocco as the Moroccan press expressed anxiety about American Middle East policy. The Middle East, the deadlocked Western Sahara issue, which blocks greater co-operation in North Africa, and bilateral security matters were expected to be the main topics at the meeting which started in the early afternoon. Minister of State Abderrahim Bouabid, leader of the Socialist Party, the main opposition movement which joined a new government of national union two weeks ago, attended the talks at the Rabat royal palace. Mr. Shultz, who arrived Saturday night for a two-day visit, heard what he described as "an earful" of criticism of U.S. policy in the Middle East during his brief visit to Tunisia.

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Fire bombs thrown at Israeli police

TEL AVIV (R) — Two petrol bombs were thrown at an Israeli police patrol Sunday in the occupied Arab West Bank town of 'Al Bireh, but caused no casualties, police said. Earlier, police said a Jew and an Arab were injured when Palestinian demonstrators from the Dahiya refugee camp, near Bethlehem, stoned the bus in which they were travelling.

Israelis wound 5 Lebanese civilians

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Five Lebanese civilians were shot and wounded Saturday night when Israeli forces opened fire to disperse a crowd throwing stones at them in the South Lebanese village of Kfar Melki, security sources said Sunday. The crowd was demanding the release of about 10 villagers detained in a round-up of guerrilla suspects, they said. In protest against the detentions, the villagers staged a sit-in at the local Shiite Muslim religious centre and blocked roads into Kfar Melki, 12 kilometres southeast of Sidon, the sources added.

Settler remanded in W. Bank killing

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli settler in the occupied Arab West Bank was remanded for four days Sunday in connection with the killing of 11-year-old Palestinian girl in Nablus last Thursday. Police told the magistrate's court in Nablus, north of here, that Ephraim Segal, 26, of Eilan Moreh settlement, was seen firing a weapon near the spot where the girl was shot dead.

Islamic bank lends \$25 million to Iraq

JEDDAH (R) — The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Sunday granted a \$25-million loan to Iraq to import semi-fabricated industrial goods, a bank statement said. It said the loan agreement was signed by IDB President Ahmad Mohammad Ali and two officials from Iraq's Ministry of Light Industries and the state-owned Rafidain Bank.

11 killed in Sudan air crash

KHARTOUM (R) — Eleven people were killed Sunday in a military helicopter crash near Abuhana, about 360 kilometres south east of Khartoum, the Sudan News Agency (ISUNA) reported.

Iranian reprieved on scaffold

TEHRAN (R) — A murderer was reprieved moments before being hanged in a Tehran jail because the mother of the man he killed decided to forgive him, the newspaper Ettela'at reported Sunday. Ettela'at quoted a prison spokesman as saying the mother, who was present to see the execution in late November, told the hangman to stop just as the rope was being placed around the murderer's neck.

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Badran, accusing U.S. of siding with Israel, urges Soviet role

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday accused the United States of siding with Israel and called for the inclusion of the Soviet Union in all efforts to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Badran, who was addressing the National Consultative Council (NCC), in the council's debate on the 1984 budget (see page 3), said that "peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without returning to United Nations resolutions and the participation of all parties concerned including the Soviet Union."

He disclosed that His Majesty King Hussein has been trying to persuade the Americans of the importance of including the Soviet Union in the peace process. But the Americans have rejected the idea and insisted on the exclusion of the Soviet Union, Mr. Badran said.

The prime minister said that the recently announced U.S.-Israel strategic pact means that Washington "is no longer a third party to the conflict" but has sided completely with Israel.

He said that when King Hussein visited Washington in the beginning of this year, sought clarifications on press reports indicating that an American-Israeli strategic pact was going to be signed.

U.S. Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger, however, assured us that the reports were groundless," Mr. Badran said.

The prime minister warned that the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance

will generate "a violent reaction in the Arab World."

Mr. Badran reiterated that Jordan is keen in pursuing efforts to hold an Arab summit as soon as possible. "Jordan is against any further postponement of an Arab summit," he said.

An Arab summit that was supposed to take place on Nov. 15 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia was postponed due to Arab differences and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi has been touring various Arab states to reach a consensus.

Mr. Badran described recent clashes between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) forces and Syrian-backed rebels in Tripoli, north Lebanon, as "a black record in the history of the Arabs."

The U.S. policy was also strongly criticised by members of the NCC.

Leith Eshbellat, who is also the president of the Jordan Engineers Association, questioned the "feasibility of the Arab World's friendship with the U.S. when Washington is siding with Israel."

In a long speech, Dr. Jama' al-Shaer compared the U.S. policy in the Middle East to its policy in Vietnam. "The U.S. has pointed South Vietnam as a country with Western democratic systems and



Prime Minister Mudar Badran addresses the National Consultative Council Sunday (Petra photo)

it is now applying the same method with Israel, presenting it as a Western democracy — one that is exploiting science, knowledge and arms for domination and being employed by Washington to carry out U.S. objectives in the area," he said.

Dr. Shaer condemned the recent American raids against Syrian positions in Lebanon and called for the support of Syria in its confrontation of the U.S. "Despite our knowledge of Syrian regime tampering with the Syrian role, we cannot belittle Syria's weight; nor can we hesitate in supporting Syria when we see U.S. forces attacking Syrian positions," he said.

Dr. Shaer, a former cabinet member, said Syria will remain "a basic axis for every Arab move in the confrontation with the enemy."

Referring to the planned evacuation of Palestinian fighters

PLO and Arab support necessary for peace negotiations, King says

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday Jordan needed support from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Arab governments before the country could negotiate a Middle East peace settlement.

King Hussein, appearing on an ABC television interview via satellite broadcast by Jordan Television, said the removal of Yasser Arafat would not help the situation.

"I have to have PLO support,"

Arab support," King Hussein said, adding: "I haven't seen any Israeli actions that would indicate Israel is willing to change its policies or approach."

He said Jordan "will continue to do business with the PLO, which represents the Palestinians and their hopes and aspirations."

Asked if he meant Mr. Arafat's supporters or anti-Arafat forces, King Hussein said he would not support a PLO subservient to another country.

King Hussein said that the situation in the area is "very dangerous" and it is being exacerbated by the superpowers. "We are on the edge of a precipice," he added.

Concerning the Israeli plan to resettle Palestinian refugees in the Jordan Valley, the King said that this is the first step of pushing the Palestinians out of the occupied territories.

Hassan: Mideast situation could lead to super-power confrontation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Repeated failures to solve the Palestinian problem have led to the present deteriorating situation in the Middle East which could lead to a super-power confrontation in the world, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Saturday, in opening the Arab-American-Canadian conference, sponsored by the Arab Thought Forum here in Amman.

Crown Prince Hassan told the two-day gathering of distinguished personalities from the Arab World, the United States, Canada and Europe, that the U.S. cannot find solutions to the Lebanese crisis or the Middle East conflict as long as the Soviet Union is not included in the process.

The two super-powers should adopt a common approach to various global issues, including a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem, Prince Hassan said.

Following is the full text of the Crown Prince's address:

"The general situation in the Middle East grows more alarming by the day. Recent events have become so serious that they are likely to leave their imprint on the political scene for a very long period of time. The attendant threats to the fragile peace of the region are no longer simply local or limited clashes between Syrian forces, PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) fighters and the Israeli army but also the prospect of continuous polarisation leading to a direct confrontation between the two world superpowers."

"It is a matter of great concern that the significance of these events does not appear to be appreciated in certain political circles around the world, hence this meeting and the meeting with some of your members in Atlanta at the kind invitation of Presidents Carter and Ford not so long ago. The rapid deterioration, which has characterised the Lebanese crisis, has compounded the problem and added a new dimension to the questions of peace making in our troubled region. It is a pleasure, under these circumstances, to host this meeting in Amman under the aegis of the Arab Thought Forum, and on an informal basis, with friends across the world. It was last year that we had the opportunity of hosting a similar meeting in Africa to exchange ideas on many basic and vital issues with four European foreign affairs research institutes. A report of that meeting is available to you to further the understanding of the forum in its work to achieve factual and direct dialogue on issues of concern. On the Arab side, we have at this meeting, a bond of constructive ideas to offer and it is my pleasure to welcome here today His Royal Highness the crown prince of Bahrain, with whom Jordan enjoys the closest of relations."

"Turning to our work of today and tomorrow, and to be quite direct, it is not just a war by proxies that we fear in the region, but it is also a general conflagration which would involve the superpowers as well as the use of deadly weapons, which could easily lead to a prolonged conflict or a situation characterised by the 'no-win' syndrome. The current deterioration is the result of many and divergent political factors. Chief among these is the repeated failure to tackle the question of Palestine in the context of 'politics is for people.' For too long it has been allowed to fester and poison the very dynamics of domestic politics not only in the Arab states but in Israel as well. The denial of Palestinian legitimate rights has triggered off a fresh wave of extremist policies which could undermine the social tranquillity of other states in the region just as it has destroyed the social fabric of the Lebanon. Ladies and Gentlemen, "The crisis in Lebanon has permitted the social diversity of Arab society to assume an ever-increasing importance in the struggle among highly irredentist, populist political movements which manipulate religious nationalist symbols for political mobilisation. The danger of the politics of fanaticism has been overshadowed by its more sinister consequence which is the fragmentation of the present state structures into warring fiefdoms, as has been witnessed in the Lebanese case over the last few years. "In an attempt to check and contain this tendency, Jordan, for one, has made energetic efforts on all fronts: domestic, Arab and international. Following the announcement of the Reagan initiative, we embarked on a fresh dialogue for peace with the United States, with our Arab brethren and with the PLO, designated, as you well know, in 1974 as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Our talks with the PLO leaders at that time, despite the common stand on the future link between Jordan and the West Bank in some form of confederation, have proved futile. It could be said that an agreement at that time would have injected a fresh impetus into the flagging peace process. The reasons for failure are varied. However, indecision seems to be the common factor among them all. The PLO leaders did not want to antagonise the radical wing in their organisation. It could be said that their indecision, in part, has led to the tragic and bloody fighting which has taken place in Lebanon — the split in their organisations has not been avoided. It has led to the use of unnecessary violence and served to

(Continued on page 3)

Gunboats lurk around Tripoli as Israel refuses to guarantee safe evacuation

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer
with Agency dispatches

TRIPOLI, Lebanon — A Palestinian spokesman said Sunday Israeli gunboats were trying to block the departure of Yasser Arafat and his loyalist forces from this north Lebanese port while Israel said it will not guarantee safe passage for the evacuation.

In Athens, an anonymous telephone caller threatened attacks on any ships carrying the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman and his forces, Reuters reported from the Greek capital.

Ahmad Abdulrahman, Mr. Arafat's spokesman said Israeli gunboats were manoeuvring off northern Lebanon apparently trying to block the departure of Palestinian fighters.

"It appears that the Israelis are manoeuvring in the sea and Israeli ships are still in Lebanese territorial waters," he said.

"It seems they do not want us to go," he told Reuters.

He told reporters Saturday Israel's naval attack on a Palestinian position north of Tripoli last week was a protest against international offers to protect the PLO evacuation of the city.

Mr. Abdulrahman said no date had been fixed for the evacuation

of an estimated 4,000 Palestinian guerrillas and civilians.

Greece has agreed to provide ships but has made this conditional on specific guarantees by the four members of the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut.

Israel refuses guarantee

In occupied Jerusalem, asked if Israel would prevent Mr. Arafat and his men from leaving the besieged port in northern Lebanon, Israeli Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor told reporters: "Israel is not going to answer that question."

Speaking after a cabinet meeting, Mr. Meridor condemned the decision by the United Nations to allow its flag to be flown on ships carrying out the evacuation.

Greece which had offered to transport the Palestinians from Lebanon had asked Israel for security guarantees that its ships would not be attacked.

Mr. Meridor said Israel would provide no such guarantee.

Minister without portfolio Ariel Sharon said last week that Mr. Arafat should not be let out of Tripoli alive because it would lead to a reconstitution of the battered and splintered PLO.

Western diplomats have dismissed as unthinkable the possibility that Israel would attack a foreign vessel flying a U.N. flag. They said the government clearly wanted to keep Mr. Arafat and the world guessing to express anger over the U.N. decision.

A senior Israeli official who asked for anonymity said Sunday: "We wouldn't declare war on the U.N. or Greece."

Threats in Athens

The Athens anonymous telephone caller who said he spoke for the "Hawks of the Palestinian Revolution" also threatened attacks on any countries which helped with the evacuation operation.

The caller said the group issued a particular warning to France, Italy and Greece, which the beleaguered Palestinian leader has called on for help.

"We will blow the ships up at sea and not allow them to reach shore safely. We will see every country that helps Arafat and his group as an enemy and will act accordingly," the caller said.

The telephone caller also threatened attacks on Mr. Arafat himself, saying, "we will use all methods and ways to seize him on land, sea or air."

OIC ministers end Dhaka conference without accord on key Mideast issues

DHAKA (R) — Islamic foreign ministers ended their prolonged meeting Sunday without reaching agreement on crucial divisions in the Islamic World, Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) officials said.

The meeting failed to reach a consensus on the three-year-old Iran-Iraq war despite two all-night sessions and ministers agreed only to refer the issue to the OIC summit in Morocco next month.

The officials said the final resolution on the declaration of independence by the Turkish community of Cyprus supported the island's territorial integrity, but at the same time expressed sympathy for the rights of the Turkish Cypriots.

Ministers avoided adjudicating on the feuding within the Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO), but Bangladesh Foreign Minister Shams Ud Doha said a message of support for the Palestine cause had been sent to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The 14th foreign ministers' meeting was extended for 12 hours in an effort to find compromise solutions. As OIC delegates left Dhaka there was no indication when the final communiqué would be released.

OIC officials blamed the delay on the many amendments to resolutions worked out in the early hours of the morning.

The meeting did agree however on the need for an immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and ministers issued a strong condemnation of the U.S.-Israeli accord, officials added.

They told Reuters a draft resolution denounced the accord as "an open and premeditated aggression against the (Middle East) region's peoples and countries, as well as a direct threat to world peace and security."

The United States and Israel agreed last month to set up a joint political-military committee to examine possible joint manoeuvres and the stockpiling of U.S. military supplies in Israel.

The meeting also agreed to call for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. They decided to set up a military office in Saudi Arabia to provide limited military assistance to the PLO.

Ministers issued what they called a "Dhaka Declaration on Islamic Human Rights," officials said.

American policy will not change under Reagan administration, says Abou Rizk

By Ara Voskian
and Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United States policy in the Middle East will not change during U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration "as he is already committed to a pro-Israeli policy," former Senator James Abou Rizk said here Sunday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, the former South Dakota Democratic senator, who is currently in Amman to attend the Arab-American-Canadian conference sponsored by the Arab Thought Forum on political, economic and cultural issues in the Arab World, said that there was "nothing new" in the recently announced U.S.-Israeli political-military agreement because "such an alliance has always existed."

"What has changed," Mr. Abou Rizk said, "is the work towards saving the Israeli economy, which is being overshadowed by the media, by highlighting the military strategic alliance, which is a fact that has always existed."

Most of the U.S. aid going to Israel is without any returns, he said. He added that President Reagan is "dedicated to a pro-Israeli policy."

Commenting on the U.S. military involvement in Lebanon, the former senator said: "Instead of sending Marines to assist (Lebanese President Amin) Gemayel the U.S. government should resort to diplomacy to solve the Lebanese crisis and to chalk out reconciliation between the warring factions."

The Arab-American-Canadian conference which ended in Amman Sunday, Mr. Abou Rizk said, "was a very strong effort by

the two sides (Arabs and Americans) to understand each other on the current situation in the Middle East."

Throughout the two-day dialogue, the Arab participants were "desperate for a solution" for the Middle East conflict, according to a foreign delegate who attended the conference. The delegate, who declined to be identified, said that during the conference the Europeans were "clearly pro-Arab in their stand while the Canadians were strong in condemning the Israeli aggression in Lebanon and called for the establishment of a Palestinian state."

He also added that throughout the dialogue that Americans were attempting to explain the "aggressive U.S. policy" in the Middle East, "though," he said, "they were not really convinced with this policy and sympathising with the Arabs."

Gen. Ershad names himself president

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's military ruler Hossain Mohammad Ershad declared himself the country's head of state Sunday and immediately called for talks with his political opponents.

The 53-year-old lieutenant-general went on national radio and television to renew his appeal for a dialogue with all political parties and leaders hours after state radio announced that he had added the role of presidency to his

post of chief martial law administrator.

"Now we have come to a stage from where we want to fully dedicate ourselves to the task of establishing democracy in the country and I have already taken steps to achieve this goal," he said.

"I am inviting, with an open mind, all the political parties and leaders to have dialogue with me to find out the way to further expedite this process," he added.

The unexpected move, which took place hours after the conclusion of a conference of Islamic foreign ministers here, appeared likely to stir up increased resentment among groups opposed to his 19 months of martial law.

It followed anti-government unrest which forced Lt.-Gen. Ershad to reimpose a ban on political activity and place Dhaka and the country's main port of Chittagong under curfew two weeks ago.

SOME NEWS

Phosphates to figure prominently in foreign company contract awards

By Philip Robbins
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Foreign companies bidding for public sector jobs in Jordan will be expected to take between 35 and 50 per cent of the price of the contract in raw phosphate rock, according to Director-General of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Wasif Azar.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Azar said the exact amount would vary according to the volume of material the individual company wants to import.

He went on to say that preference would also be shown to firms from countries who import quantities of phosphate, and confirmed that this policy has been under implementation since the summer.

Mr. Azar said that Jordan is unhappy at its large trade deficit with such states as Japan, South Korea, Britain, West Germany, Austria, Italy and France and would be looking to them to take phosphates up to five per cent of

the total value of goods and services imported from these countries.

Japan and South Korea, he said, have already responded positively to this policy. In 1983 Japan has bought 250,000 tonnes of the mineral which is expected to rise to the 350,000 tonne mark next year, he said.

Mr. Azar expressed himself likewise pleased with the South Koreans who have imported 55,000 tonnes in 1983, the first year they have bought phosphate from Jordan; a volume which could as much as quintuple in 1984.

Most of the European countries, however, Mr. Azar said, have shown little interest in buying the mineral from Jordan.

Economic analysts attribute the introduction of the barrier element in contracts to the threefold objective of reducing Jordan's large balance of trade deficit, which stood at JD 492 million in 1982, conserving the country's foreign currency reserves and aiding the marketing drive of the JPMC. To this end, Mr. Azar hopes that exports of the rock will rise by 43 per cent over 1983 and 1984.

Mr. Azar's clarifications came in the wake of a general memorandum from the Prime Ministry saying that countries importing phosphate, potash and fertiliser will be given preference in contract awards.

This follows another memorandum issued in July which said that all local contracts worth more than JD 4 million must be submitted to the Prime Minister's office for approval.

A senior official at the Prime Ministry confirmed that the phosphate element would be the "single largest consideration in contract awards."

However it was pointed out that other factors, including the number of Jordanians to be employed, the transfer of technology, maintenance back up as well as the total cost of the bid would all continue to be evaluated.

The official dismissed the general notion that for contract purposes the price of phosphate would be discounted, although, it was pointed out, this could be considered in the future as a way of wooing particular firms with highly specialised expertise.

Minister: E. Germany keen on joint projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — East Germany Sunday expressed a willingness to launch joint ventures with Jordanian public and private sector organisations and to employ local manpower in joint economic projects.

This was mentioned by the visiting East German Foreign Trade Minister, Gerhard Beil, at a meeting with Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour with whom he discussed ways of promoting bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Dr. Beil, who arrived here Saturday for a three-day visit, expressed satisfaction at the existing ties between his country and Jordan and said that an agreement to be signed between the two sides at the end of his visit will form "a new step on the road to bolstering bilateral trade and economic cooperation."

Dr. Beil reviewed with Mr. Asfour a number of areas in which bilateral cooperation can best be achieved. These include electricity, trade, insurance, postal affairs, railways and transport in general, prospecting for natural resources, irrigation and agriculture.

At the outset of the meeting, held at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Mr. Asfour referred to the 1977 bilateral agreement on trade between the two and an amendment attached to it in 1981.

In the meeting, which was also attended by aides from both sides, Mr. Asfour outlined the areas where Jordan and East Germany can cooperate and explained Jordanian laws and the exemptions and incentives they offer. He also welcomed any joint economic ventures with East Germany.

Jordan, he said, has adopted a policy whereby it will link its trade with world nations according to the quantities of phosphates these countries import.

"Jordan therefore hopes that

East Germany will import more quantities of Jordanian phosphates," the minister said.

Mr. Asfour also spoke about the privileges which the Jordanian free zones offer to attract investors. There are free zones in Aqaba, Amman, and Zarqa and a fourth one planned for the Jordanian-Syrian border, the minister said.

He referred to Jordan's central geographical location in the region which, he said, enables the country to have easy access to other Arab states.

At the meeting, the two sides set up a number of committees grouping specialists together to discuss various aspects of a projected agreement. The agreement is designed to increase the volume of trade and launch wider economic cooperation between the two countries.

It also provides for the organisation of joint trade fairs, and the possible opening of embassies in East Germany and Amman. At present East Germany has a non-resident ambassador who resides in Damascus.

Also Sunday, Dr. Beil held talks with Foreign Minister Marwan Al Oqasem with whom he discussed bilateral relations. Mr. Oqasem briefed the East German minister on the latest political developments in the Middle East as well as Jordan's drive to arrive at a peaceful settlement based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

Dr. Beil briefed Mr. Oqasem on his country's stand and its support for the Jordanian view point vis-a-vis the region's issues.

The East German minister and his delegation earlier paid a visit to the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and met its Director Hisham Al Khatib and other officials.

They discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of electric power and the minister was briefed on the JEA projects.

NCC approves budget after fuel subsidy cut

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced Sunday that there will be cuts in fuel subsidies and that the deficit in the 1984 draft budget would be lower than had originally been estimated.

Mr. Badran was commenting on recommendations made by the Councils Financial and Administrative Committee concerning the 1984 draft budget.

The report, prepared by the committee had called for the curbing of the government subsidy to fuels "that are consumed by the lower strata" and to the "price of wheat produced locally."

The 1984 draft budget assigned JD 18 million for fuel subsidy but, the prime minister said, it will now be cut to JD 5 million.

The issue of subsidies was discussed by several council members during the extraordinary Sunday session of the NCC.

They were divided on the amounts that should be allocated for subsidies. While most advocated a cut in the government's support for fuel and wheat, some members voiced concern that such a cut might affect poorer people.

Prime Minister Badran, however, reassured them that a cut in the subsidies does not necessarily imply a rise in foodstuff and fuel prices.

NCC member Taher Hikmat then suggested that the recommendation made by the committee should be cancelled since the government intends to cut fuel and foodstuff subsidies. The suggestion was approved by the council.

The report of the committee, as well as several of the 42 members who spoke at the budget, called on the government not to introduce new or raise the present taxes.

The recommendation was made

on the assumption that the draft budget's objective of raising local revenues might imply an increase in taxes that constitute a large percentage of local revenues.

Mr. Badran declared that the government has no intention of introducing new or raising the present level of taxes.

"The government will focus its efforts on increasing the number of beneficiaries from public services while seeking to include as many potential tax payers as possible within the system so as to help increase government revenues," he said.

Mr. Badran then tackled the need to reduce the budget deficit, a point which was raised by the committee. The 1984 estimated budget deficit is JD 17.7 million while Jordan's accumulated deficit amounts to JD 600 million.

The prime minister, however, said that decreasing the budget deficit is one of the major objectives that the government is working for.

He announced that the deficit is actually going to be JD 11.5 million since a payment due to the International Monetary Fund amounting to JD 6 million is not in fact due.

NCC members, including the committee, expressed concern about Jordan's national debt. The report stated that the general debt has risen from JD 136 million in

1981 to JD 278 million in 1982. In the 1984 draft budget statement, the Minister of Finance stated that Jordan this year has had to resort to commercial loans.

The prime minister explained that the government was forced to do so under "exceptional and urgent circumstances emanating from our need for and commitment to acquiring arms," he said.

The prime minister also commented on the committee report's "reservations" concerning the Minister of Finance's budget statement of "optimism that, despite the world recession, Jordan will be able to ride the crises," Mr. Badran said that the government is still keen to activate and develop all spheres of Jordan's economy.

Mr. Badran finally said that the 1984 draft budget reflects "a sincere desire on the part of the government to achieve more self-reliance and to increase the citizen's participation in shouldering the responsibility towards the development of the country and its security."

He also appealed to the Arab countries who did not pay their aid to Jordan as a frontline state to fulfil their obligations.

In general, members who discussed the budget Sunday supported the 1984 draft budget especially in its support for Jordan's armed forces and the people in the occupied territories, and to achieve self reliance through depending on local resources.

They also called for more attention to be paid to agriculture.

The 1984 draft budget, together with the recommendations of the committee, were approved by the council.

Banks to underwrite AWSA bond issue

AMMAN (J.T.) — Six Jordanian investment banking institutions are to underwrite a JD 6 million 10-year bond issue for the Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA), in accordance with an agreement signed here Sunday.

The bonds to be offered for sale to the public on Jan. 11, 1984 by AWSA will mature in May 1993.

The money will be used to finance the expansion of the Amman sewer system to include new areas to the south, north and west of Amman.

These areas include Umm Al Summa, Al Jarj Al Hamam, Jan-

dabil, Quweismeh and a number of others.

The project also entails the linking of the public sewers with 6,000 homes, thus raising the number of homes linked to the sewer network to 90 per cent of the total homes in the capital and its suburbs.

The consortium groups together the Jordanian Securities Corporation, the Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan), the Arab Jordan Investment Bank, the National General Investments Company, the Jordan Investments and Finance Company, and the Jordan Finance and Credit Corporation.

The agreement was signed by AWSA Director Mohammad Al Kilani and representatives from the investment bank group.

Anaesthesia course starts

AMMAN (Petra) — A week long intensified course for doctors specialised in anaesthesia started Sunday at the Jordan Medical Council. The course is aimed at giving intensive training to the 19 participants prior to the specialist examination for physicians scheduled to be held Jan. 2.

'Situation could lead to super-power confrontation'

(Continued from page 1)

tarnish the image of the PLO as well as the reputation of a number of Arab states.

"In our view, the U.S. was not decisive enough on its undertakings towards peace making as enunciated by President Reagan. Israel refused the initiative, and did not heed his call for a freeze on settlement activity — a feature of Israeli policy which is in my view necessary for its security and only diminishes confidence that a final outcome can be freely and fairly negotiated. The president's request that Israel should comply with the freeze on settlement in order to 'foster the kind of atmosphere needed for negotiation leading to peace' was ignored and violated. In the minds of many in this region, American reluctance to condemn settlement activity appears to condone the acquisition of territory by force, in addition to contravening the provisions of international law."

"Jordan has made a serious commitment to a peaceful resolution of the Palestine question. We have firmly supported all international initiatives aimed at reaching a just and lasting settlement. We have followed every avenue, exploited every opportunity, and bent over backwards to accommodate both friend and foe to see justice and peace triumph in the Middle East. We have availed ourselves honourably in the constructive attempt to combine elements of the Reagan peace initiative with the pan-Arab Fez peace plan. The fact that Jordan has not been successful in concluding an agreement with the PLO, supported by Arab consensus, on a negotiating stance, does not alter some basic and fundamental facts about our relationship with Palestine as a country and the Palestinians as a people."

"The long chain of historical, cultural, economic and political linkages between the two banks of Jordan cannot be easily broken or abandoned. It has been attested to by the resolution of the Palestine National Council in February, 1983 to work towards a confederation between the occupied territories and Jordan. There is little doubt in anyone's mind that

Jordan has been a natural choice as a partner not only in the administration of economic aid to these areas, but also in working towards the achievement of the determination of their future political status.

"However, as attention is increasingly focused on events in Lebanon, the outlook for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East grows dimmer and more remote. The Lebanese crisis, mainly a symptom, has been allowed to overshadow the real cause of a complex and intractable problem. Lebanon has become a major diversion for two potential regional powers, namely, Syria and Israel, to pursue their own respective policy objectives. Israel has been able to consolidate its hold on the occupied territories and to intimidate their people to forsake the land of their forefathers. Syria has been engaged in a fratricidal war to contain and control the political will of the Palestinian people. To deprive the people of Palestine of an independent voice which can defend their national interest in the absence of functioning public institutions to articulate, in particular, the wishes of the principal Palestinian constituency — that of the Palestine Arabs under Israeli occupation. All of this, in the final analysis, detrimental to peace, the Palestinians, the Lebanese and the Arabs as a whole."

"The confrontation between Syria and Israel of such vital consequences for what I call the 'terra media' or 'middle ground' between these peoples, has brought about a radical shift in the balance of power in the region. Their respective quests for domination of the region may lead Israel to formally annex the occupied West Bank, and leave the territorial integrity of Lebanon permanently compromised. Moreover, pressures on Jordan may mount from the West as well as the North, accompanied by demographic movement toward the country as a result of the social and economic dislocations inflicted on the Palestinians both at home and in the diaspora."

"I choose to be direct in these references because the element of time is crucial to us all in the region. The influx of disgruntled and politically alienated people into Jordan would serve only one purpose: the radicalisation of its politics and the destabilisation of its society. The disruption of social harmony which exists in Jordan may prove a propitious step, allowing both American-backed Israelis and Soviet-supported Syrians to indulge in more adventurist policies which would threaten the fragile stability of the region and the peace of the world. This powerful superpower support will no doubt encourage them to establish a linkage between the Mediterranean littoral and the Red Sea-Gulf theatre, where they want to influence the course of future events."

"The fighting in northern Lebanon and the creeping annexation of the occupied territories ex-

posed by the Israeli authorities, have compounded the continuing impasse in the search for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan is seriously reconsidering the Palestine-Jordan inter-family relationship. Our sole objective, as it has always been, is to protect the Arab identity of the Palestinian people under alien occupation. The preservation of the national character of the Arab community of Palestine will undoubtedly contribute to the maintenance of Jordan's 'terra media' or 'middle ground' position between the politics of extremes. As His Majesty, my brother, has stated, we intend to look seriously at reviving our parliamentary institutions to give all our people a say in the determination of their destiny. We need the help, and require the support, of all to achieve a just and durable peace based on the United Nations premise of justice for peoples and security for all states."

"Unfortunately, and since our meeting with some of you in Atlanta where I called for a bipartisanship and the continued urgent need for peace making in the region, much has changed. The prevalence of strategic considerations, particularly in Washington, is inclined to overlook these drastic changes taking place in the region. Alliance with one party in the Middle East dispute and the deployment of the multinational peace keeping force in Lebanon — elements of it in an offensive role — is not only contrary to the spirit and letter of American undertakings, but is bound to undermine the peace process itself as it intensifies the polarisation and brings the risk of superpower confrontation dangerously close. It is evidently clear that the United States cannot bring peace either to Lebanon or to the Middle East while the Soviet Union is completely excluded from the peace process. A convergence of the interests of those local forces opposed to a peaceful

settlement and the Soviet Union, which resents the diminution of its global role as a superpower, can and indeed has, obstructed the initiatives and proposals aimed at peace negotiations. It is of paramount importance that the superpowers embark on a dialogue to formulate a common approach to any global issues and among them, a settlement of the Middle East problem. A two-track approach is preferable — one to deal with Lebanon and the other concentrating on the crux of the issue, the Palestinian problem. Working in tandem they may produce quicker and more constructive results."

"Our hopes and expectations, and in a meeting of the minds in these difficult days, are that you, and we, can do our full share to induce this crucial and fundamental shift in the world of power politics in order to avert global war."

"Peace be with you and God's mercy and blessings."

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CORRECTION

The advertisement on page 8, (Jordan Times Dec. 11, 83) under the headline "Arabic Course", please read that the course will start on Dec. 12, 1983 instead of Oct. 8.

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Red herrings won't work

THE REAGAN administration, in deciding to use air power against Syrian positions in Lebanon last week, may have indeed been seeking to send a signal to the Syrians that they would risk increased American and Israeli military pressure if they refused to negotiate a withdrawal from Lebanon. But, even then, is the threat of using force all that the Americans have got left in their policy for Lebanon and the Middle East? Do they not have a credible alternative to violence, whether in self-defence as they say or otherwise, for pursuing their political goals in this part of the world? And what does it really take to convince the U.S. administration not to chase its losses, any further?

By taking a close look at events, and American behaviour, leading to the conclusion of Israeli Premier Shamir's talks with President Reagan in Washington late last month, and after, Washington could not be aiming at only short-term gains from its increased military and political co-operation with Israel. Its conduct suggests not only forlornness in dealing with the Syrians and the Soviets in Lebanon. It is basically embarking, intentionally or unwittingly, on a dangerous course that could never win the Middle East for America.

Put in simple terms, the U.S., by forging its unholy alliance with the Israelis in the past two weeks, has in effect wanted to push its moderate Arab friends right into the confrontation line with the Soviets and the Arab radicals, reserving for itself and Israel two ring-side seats to see what happens. If the Arab moderates crumbled, there would still be the two strategic allies, the U.S. and Israel, to guard the big base at Palestine, all Israeli-administered and fortified with American weaponry and might to the hilt, according to our own understanding of this new American policy trend for the Middle East.

This strategy was apparently put to the test when the U.S. fighters of the Sixth Fleet were ordered to bomb the Syrian positions in Lebanon eight days ago. But the exercise does not seem to have worked. Washington may now try once or twice more. But again, we are sure, it could not possibly work.

The Arab moderates, Jordan at the top, know that the U.S. has less than one chance in a million of succeeding to convince us to fight its administration's avowed battle in this region. Here we are, having our own problems with the Israelis who are occupying our land and subjugating its inhabitants — and the Americans want us to believe that "Russia" is the enemy. Well, the Soviets may be Reagan's arch-rivals for whatever he chooses to name, but, as far as we are concerned, Israel and its practices against our people remain the Arabs' biggest worry.

The Arab moderates thus have only one, loud and clear, message to send to the U.S.: Rather than crumble to the Arab radicals and Soviets, we prefer to tell what is terribly wrong with you, Americans.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel uses blackmail

WE REJECT the American hegemony over the Arab region and we warn of the consequences of the U.S.-Israeli alliance. We want Washington to understand our position well and to stop condoning Israel's terrorist activities and blackmail against the Arabs and the countries now trying to take away the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli to safety. No doubt the U.S.-Israeli alliance has prompted Israel to exert blackmail on the Arabs in an attempt to block the departure of the fighters prior to launching attacks aimed at the obliteration of them before they board the ships. France and Greece are now requesting pledges that their ships will not be attacked and the Palestinians are hoping that the Arab League will do something in this respect to save the fighters from annihilation.

The U.S. for its part is keeping silent about the whole affair. It is perhaps hoping that the Greeks and the French will eventually approach the Israelis for permission to carry the fighters away and to offer protection to the ships. The U.S. is firstly offering Israel the chance to launch its strike against the Palestinians so they can be wiped out before they have had the chance to leave, and secondly to appear as the policeman of the East Mediterranean region offering permits to ships to pass and conduct business. The U.S. alliance with the Israeli aggressors is to be regarded as a blow to the Arabs who once had trusted the U.S. but were later disillusioned once they discovered Washington's intentions to be a partner with terrorism and criminal activity.

Al Dustour: Chance for self-realisation

ARAB COUNTRIES' weakness and total inability to repel aggression is due mainly to the denial by Arab governments of the Arab citizen's own rights in their homeland and the depriving of the Arab individual of the right to decision-making and determining his or her own future. All the Arab wealth, oil and development schemes which employ the most advanced technological methods and scientific techniques are unable to improve the standards of the Arab individual and have so far failed to place the Arab countries which implement them from assuming an advanced and reputed status among world nations all because of the denial of the Arab citizen of his or her basic rights, free expression, free participation in creative and constructive work to advance the lot of his society and take an active role in the comprehensive development of the Arab World.

In view of all this, we welcome the declaration of an Arab organisation for the defence of the rights of the Arab citizen in his homeland which was engineered by a group of intellectuals at a recent meeting held in Cyprus. We support the new organisation because it is designed to restore to the Arab citizen his self-respect and his rights in his own country, following years of deprivation and denial.

Sawt Al Shaab: A second Arab role

WHETHER THE final strike on PLO fighters in Tripoli will come from Abu Musa and his Syrian or Libyan supporters or from Israel, the result is just the same. Both parties are intent on destroying the PLO leadership and serving the aims of Zionism. No matter who the actors are on the stage as long as the final act will be the destruction of Arafat and his men and sacrificing the Palestinian people's struggle and Palestinian fighters to serve Israel's goals and objectives. There is no reason for us to believe that the Israelis are not coordinating their siege of Tripoli with Abu Musa and his supporters and there is no reason for us either not to believe that another Sabra and Shatila massacre is about to take place off the Tripoli coast.

It was due to Arab mediation efforts that Arafat and his men are now leaving Tripoli to save the city from further destruction. But the Arab responsibility should not be confined to that alone. Arab countries should provide protection to the fighters as they leave the city, in transit and at their new destination.

DE FACTONOMICS

Jordanian job-seekers increase

By T.A. Jaber

IN ONE of my Jordan Times columns, I expected that significant changes in the labour market in Jordan will take place in the coming few years. These changes include, briefly, a change in the supply-demand relation which will pressure the wage levels from increasing noticeably higher than prices; open unemployment will become a clearly visible problem particularly among university and community college graduates; inadequate job opportunities for educated females will limit the continuation of the rise in women participation rate.

At the same time, vocational training will become relatively more attractive for our youth. Every Jordanian will continue to upgrade his skills and reserve "dirty jobs" for "im-

ported" labour. However, jobs which have less attraction to Jordanians in agriculture and in not-that-close locations will become more acceptable.

Perhaps not all of these predictions have now materialised. More time is needed and I hope economic conditions may improve so that these setbacks will not occur. However, I have noticed recently that there are signs that signify the beginning of a change that would leave its imprint on our labour market.

The Civil Service Commission issued a statistical bulletin on its activities last week. In the third quarter of 1983, 2,354 applications were submitted to the commission by newly-graduated Jordanians, of whom about half were university graduates while the

other half were community college and secondary school graduates. Sixty-two per cent of the total were females with a concentration in higher education.

It is not shown how many of these applicants were appointed. It is indicated in other figures that about half of them were referred for ministries and departments for possible employment. Actually, about one-fifth of these persons got jobs.

The large number of applications for public jobs disappeared more or less in the last decade, due to the tight employment conditions. Now, the government departments will be able to recruit and select from a larger number of job-seekers.

There is another development in the labour market which reinforces the phenomenon of larger number of Jordanians seeking jobs. The employment offices of the Ministry of Labour have recorded in the first ten months of 1983 almost double the number of job-seekers as the whole 1982. These are mostly semi-skilled and skilled Jordanian workers. The number of workers applying for jobs exceeded 5,000 and will most probably reach 7,000 over the whole of 1983. While 70 per cent of applicants were employed in 1982, the figure did not exceed 37.4 per cent in 1983.

Thus, it is now proven without doubt that labour conditions are changing, though gradually. Employment policies then have to change in

order to deal adequately with the rising number of job-seekers and the emerging open unemployment.

With 120,000 foreign workers in Jordan accounting for 24 per cent of its total labour force, more restrictive measures should be taken against the increase in labour importation. These restrictions should be tighter in categories of manpower where Jordanians are available. The policy of resorting to non-Jordanians should be confined to meeting transitory gaps in the labour market.

In any case, Jordan has to adapt its policy of complete openness to Egyptian workers, particularly those who perform clerical jobs. Since the government is exerting all efforts to generate local revenues,

some fees should be imposed on labour flow. This has been the practice in the Arab Gulf countries, which face far less difficulties in their budgets. In Kuwait, fees on work permits were introduced 20 years ago.

Special measures have to be desired to meet satisfactorily the increasing demand by females for work. Occupational guidance and career planning have also to be properly undertaken. The revenue generated from fees on work permits could help finance these and other new manpower programmes.

While signs of open unemployment have started to emerge in Jordan, there is an opportunity to devise more adequate and non-traditional measures to face such a potentially growing problem.

U.S. policy on Mideast should be debated in public

In a speech he delivered at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council in November, Dr. James Zogby, Executive Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), criticised the fact that U.S. Middle East policy has not been debated as a major issue in a presidential election year. According to Dr. Zogby, one of the reasons for this "profoundly disturbing fact" is the one-sided perception of the Middle East conflict (in Washington) whereby the "Israelis are seen as the only human beings," while the Arabs "are viewed as a political problem and faceless objects, or forces of destruction, and therefore most Americans see no reason for discussion there. The second reason, according to ADC director, is the absence of American-Arabs from the American political process. He stressed that Arab-Americans "do not want to impose Arab solutions or an Arab agenda on U.S. policy-makers", but they want a free and open debate leading to a balanced and just U.S. Middle East policy. Following is the full text of Dr. Zogby's speech.

In a democracy, most major policy issues, both foreign and domestic, are decided or influenced by public debate. This involvement of the electorate in decisionmaking is not only one of the exciting features of our system, but it is also our principle source of strength. Especially in an election year, we see the dynamic unleashed by the interaction among candidates in public debate, followed by the public reaction: at candidate's public forums; in opinion polls; and, finally in voting booths.

Through this process of public democratic debate, we have established on the most fundamental of levels a system of checks and balances acting as a corrective, especially with regard to those critical questions of policy which require broad public support for resolution and/or implementation. We have all seen this dynamic at work in such major issues of public importance as equal rights for blacks and women, the nuclear arms race, East-West relations, and the state of the economy.

There is, however, one major issue of national importance that has not, until now, been debated in a presidential election year. This is, of course, the direction of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

This is a profoundly disturbing fact given what is at stake for the U.S. in this critical region of the world: — 15,000 U.S. military personnel on and off shore in Lebanon and Egypt. — Billions of dollars of U.S. foreign aid being pumped yearly into Israel to pursue policies which successive administrations have criticised and/or condemned; — The absolute need for the U.S. to maintain healthy and normal economic and political relations with the nations in the Middle East.

Given these factors, it seems likely that U.S. Middle East policy should be a central issue for public debate. This would seem all the more likely in light of the dramatic, and at times, tragic setbacks that we, as a nation, have suffered in the Middle East. But it is a fact that in every national election — up until the present one — there has not been a public debate on U.S. Middle East policy. This is because of two principal reasons, which I shall outline.

A one-sided perception

The first reason why there has not yet been a full public debate of Middle East policy is that such discussions are primarily formed not by political realities but by perceptions. For over 60 years, American perceptions of the Middle East have been molded by only one side of the conflict. During the greater part of this century, the Middle East conflict has been presented to the American people in a rather simplistic equation. As expressed in 1936 by the Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann, the Middle East was the scene of a struggle between "the forces of civilisation and the forces of the desert, of destruction."

While there have been many variations on this theme, this essentially is the message that Americans have received during the past six decades of the one-sided non-debate. In this view, there is no other side; Israelis are seen as the only human beings in the Middle East.

Listen to the words of the British Lord Balfour whose infamous declaration promised Palestine to the Zionist movement. When challenged with the fact of the existence of Arabs in Palestine and also with their fears and aspirations, Lord Balfour responded: "We do not propose to go through the form of consulting the inhabitants as to their wishes. Zionism is of far greater importance to us than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who inhabit Palestine."

In the public mind, as informed in this one-sided manner, Israelis are understood to be what, in fact, they are; that is, complex human beings with hopes and fears. They exist in the public mind as individual people who have suffered and who continue to suffer. We know them, we can see them in our mind's eye and we can identify with them.

Israelis, we have come to believe, are people who long to be secure, so they can use their creative genius to survive in peace and prosperity. On the other hand, Arabs, and Palestinians in particular, are viewed not as people but merely as a "political problem." When they are presented at all it is in caricature or in the collective. They are Palestinian terrorists (objects of contempt) or Palestinian refugees (objects of pity). When they are bombed by Israeli jets they become Palestinian "strongholds" or Palestinian "targets" (objects of invisibility). They are, in any case, "faceless" objects.

I must tell you a story to make this point clearer. In 1981 after the Israeli bombing of the Fakhari neighborhood in Beirut, I was stunned by the manner in which the networks covered the event. There were, as a result of just one day's bombing, 383 Lebanese and Palestinian civilians known dead. On that same day, there were six Israeli casualties, 1 dead, 5 wounded.

The network coverage from Israel was vivid and deeply moving. Weeping and frightened parents were interviewed. Ambulances screamed through the night. Wounded Israelis were carried out on stretchers while police ordered onlookers to move away, to make way.

From Beirut, we saw only rubble — a desolate, empty, destroyed street. To be sure, casualty



Dr. James Zogby

figures were announced. The reporters told their stories well, but without victims, and without the families of victims. The number was a faceless mass.

Later, I met a network cameraman who had been in Beirut at the time. I asked him why his network's coverage of Lebanon had been so sanitized. He responded that that had not been his intention. He had arrived on the scene, he told me, shortly after the bombing, and had seen bodies being pulled out of the rubble, ambulances, and the anguished faces of victims and survivors. There was, he told me, so much disarray that he felt it better to wait until the street was cleared! And so, while Americans were given to see the anguish of Israel's six casualties, the hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinian victims remained invisible.

Even after Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the September 1982 massacre of Palestinians and Lebanese in Sabra and Shatila, neither the media portrayal nor the public perception of Palestinian humanity change dramatically. They — both victims and survivors — remain a "faceless" collective, once again "objects of pity," without personality, without rights, just a nagging problem to be solved.

It was for us bitter irony that even in this instance the media, and therefore the public mind, were focused on Israeli humanity. Sabra and Shatila were perversely twisted into a test for Israel's democracy and then a celebration of that democracy. Even the Washington Post, in the days following the massacre, never sought to speak to family members of victims residing in the Washington area. Instead they carried a full page of comments by Washington area Jews on how they felt about the massacre!

Lebanon and the Lebanese have fared no better in the public mind. For years, Lebanon existed in the American mind only as a "beautiful place." More recently, Lebanon has been described as a "once beautiful place."

In fact, Lebanon became in the public's mind merely a "vacant lot," where Israel fought the Palestinian "problem" and Lebanese fought themselves. The fact that the majority of those killed by Israel in 1982 were Lebanese was ignored. The fact that one-half of those who were massacred in Sabra and Shatila were Lebanese is not known.

When some Lebanese factions became allies of Israel, they were, for a short time, presented in a favourable light. They were pretty Christian girls kissing Israeli soldiers, or poor people who hated the "Palestinians" as much as the Israelis did.

This lasted only for a brief moment. When Phalangist actions

became an embarrassment for Israel, they became, in Begin's words, just "goyim" who kill goyim, just "Arabs killing Arabs."

Throughout the past few decades, Lebanese as people have not been seen, and Lebanese as individuals are not known. All Lebanese have been reduced to caricatures; they are Phalangists or Druze "militiamen." Lebanon itself has been reduced to merely a strategic point in the East-West confrontation.

The same has been the fate of the rest of the Arab World. Arab wealth is resented. It is viewed as ill-gotten gains; therefore, it is held in suspicion and/or contempt. Each year, for example, my congressional would send the voters in his district a questionnaire polling their attitudes on both issues of domestic and foreign policy. Yearly he would ask a question like "should we forsake our alliance with the tiny democracy of Israel to work more closely with the feudal oil barons of the Arab World?"

We saw much of the same contempt for Arabs in the FBI sting operation "ABSCAM." In that outrage, the FBI — the highest law enforcement agency of the land — used the image of the Arab as a lure for crime much in the same way that one would have used a pimp or a drug pusher. At the time, we rightly asked, could there have ever been a JEW-SCAM?

Given this gross misrepresentation of Arab humanity and Middle East realities, is it any wonder that there has been up until now no serious public debate? If, as the public has come to perceive the situation, Israeli humanity is struggling for survival against the "Palestine problem," or "forces of destruction," most Americans see no reason for discussion. Of course, they say, we should support humanity. And since Palestinians are only a "problem," and don't really exist as a people with rights and feelings, then why, Americans might ask, don't Egypt or Jordan or both sit down with Israel to solve the Palestine problem?

These perceptions are not, of course, in conformity with reality. In reality, Israelis, Lebanese, Palestinians, Syrians, Egyptians, Jordanians, and all the Arabs have suffered and continue to suffer. Israelis want peace; so, also, do Palestinians want peace — and justice, and security, and a state of their own in a land where they have lived as a people for thousands of years.

The Lebanese, too, want peace and security and unity in their land, and so, too, do all the Arab people want security and peace and rights to control their resources and destiny. But while these needs of the Arab people are

as real as those of the Israelis, they are not known here in the U.S. and they do not yet, in any meaningful way, inform the public of the perception of the Middle East.

Absence of Arab-Americans from political process

This brings me to the second reason why there has not been, until recently, any significant debate on U.S. Middle East policy, and that is the absence of American-Arabs from the American political process.

It is because Arab-Americans have been absent as a political force in America that the needs of Arab humanity have not yet been understood by most Americans. Because of our absence, political leaders and opinion makers heard only one side: Political discussions took place without us and political coalitions were formed without us.

No one addressed our concerns because we did not address our concerns to them. Now if all this had taken place in a vacuum, it might have been different. Americans on their own might have discovered Middle East realities. But this was not the case. While we, for 60 years, sat on the side lines, the game was being played without us. And, I might add, played quite well. Democracy is a system of checks and balances. Because we did not present any check, there was no balance achieved in Middle East policy.

In February of 1945, toward the end of World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt met with the King of Saudi Arabia. After lengthy discussions, King Abdul Aziz convinced FDR of the seriousness with which the Arabs viewed the question of Palestine. In response, FDR promised the King that the U.S. would do nothing to jeopardise the rights of the Arabs in Palestine.

A few months later, FDR died. President Truman knew of FDR's commitment but changed U.S. policy because, as he noted, "The Jews want it, and anyway, the Arabs don't vote."

There are reasons why Arab-Americans did not vote or participate in the political process; they are both social and political.

The bulk of our people who emigrated to this land only did so two generations ago. They were predominantly non-urban without previous political experience. They came primarily concerned with survival and even in that early period, they witnessed ethnic discrimination. Confronting larger, more established and better organized ethnic communities, the earliest Arab-American immigrants remained politically passive, especially in the face of the more powerful and more entrenched Jewish community.

But it suffices to say that in 1984, all this has changed. Today, Arab-Americans are beginning to move and move quite rapidly. Today, we are a new community. Today, we are a mature community of second generation Americans coupled with a large and important group of recent immigrants, who are professionals with political and organisational sophistication.

We are today, for the most part, no longer victims of the past. We Arab-Americans do not, for the most part, see ourselves as exiles or as immigrants. We are citizens determined to play a full role in American political life, and do not, for the most part, see ourselves in terms of the old world. We do not identify with factions or governments there. We have come to see ourselves in a new way as part of a unified and new community of Americans of Arab descent.

Our American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) is evidence of this new maturity among American Arabs. We have, in three short years of existence, made significant progress toward our goal of becoming

an important constituent group in the American body politic.

We have won some important victories in our effort to correct the misconception of Arabs:

— Political leaders have apologized and made concessions for anti-Arab remarks;

— Advertisers have in many parts of the country stopped using negative Arab caricatures to sell products;

— TV networks have apologized and even offered and produced alternative programmes to help correct the image of the Arab;

— We have brought our people together to provide services for ourselves and for our people in the Middle East. For example, we remain very proud of our Save Lebanon project. Responding to the crisis in Lebanon, we in ADC vowed that Arab-Americans would come to the aid of the Lebanese and Palestinian children, victims of war in Lebanon. We organised across America, to raise funds to secure hospital space and doctors so that we might bring to the U.S. those children who require special medical care. To date, 40 children have come and received artificial limbs, reconstructive surgery, new eyes and a new chance to live a normal healthy life.

In addition, Save Lebanon has provided aid for hundreds of students stranded in this country without funds. We have provided significant medical and relief assistance for hundreds of other children and young adults who have suffered from years of fighting in Lebanon. In the process, Arab-Americans have gained even greater maturity. As Danny Thomas said at our Save Lebanon benefit concert at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, "We have not only healed our children, but we have healed ourselves." Lebanese, Palestinians, Syrians, Egyptians, Jordanians, Yemenis, Iraqis, Saudis, and others of Arab descent all worked as Arab-Americans to help the children.

— And, finally, we have become a part of some of the major political coalitions of the day. For example, when on Aug. 17, 1983, 350,000 Americans marched for "Jobs, Peace and Freedom" to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's historic march on Washington, thousands of Arab-Americans marched and participated nationally in building the "Coalition of Conscience."

All this has been possible because we are uniting and organising our community. We are today nearing 20,000 members with 45 chapters and 10 regional offices nationwide.

Because we are so large and because we are a grass roots organisation, we are giving Arab-Americans a voice and are making Arab-Americans visible as an ethnic community. We are making our concerns heard. And in the process, we are helping to create a national debate on U.S. Middle East policy.

Today we begin our West Coast Convention. It is of no small importance to us and I think to the nation that this year's convention will feature two presidential candidates, Senator George McGovern and Rev. Jesse Jackson.

This is a first for us. In 1980 even Barry Comptan, a little known independent candidate for president, wouldn't address an Arab-American gathering in Washington, D.C. This is also a first for America: Two out of eight presidential hopefuls will be challenging Americans to take a fresh and balanced look at the Middle East and will be inviting Arab-Americans to become a part of their campaigns.

I must, however, note that we are well aware of the fact that we are not yet resolved for us, our full

Continued on page 5

U.S. Mideast policy

Continued from page 4

entry into the political process will not be easy. There are those who will seek to deny us a forum and who will challenge even the integrity of our community. Just this past month, in Philadelphia, we saw an ugly reminder of the fact that intolerance and bigotry are alive and well in the U.S. On Oct. 14, Arab-Americans from Philadelphia gathered to honour and raise funds for the Democratic candidate for mayor of the city, Wilson Goode. On Oct. 15, Goode's opponent, John Egan, "Arab-baited" the event and denounced Goode for becoming close to the Arabs and "soft on Israel." In response, Wilson Goode announced in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Oct. 16 that he was giving back "the Arab money." This was not to be the end of the story. What was important to us and, I believe, to American democracy, was that our community in Philadelphia fought back. As a result, black leaders from the city and across the nation denounced this effort to exclude Arab-Americans from the political process. Republicans sought to distance themselves from Egan's crude tactics. And most importantly, American Jews in Philadelphia spoke out against this display of intolerance and condemned it.

Today, after 60 years, American-Arabs cannot be ignored as an American political constituent group. Because of that, our concerns will be heard and our humanity and that of our relatives and friends in the Middle East will be affirmed.

We hope as a result of our new voice to play a useful role in creating the debate that must take place on the U.S. role in the Mid-

dle East. America needs us to play this role because America needs a balanced Middle East foreign policy. We are trying to help accomplish this, because we believe that no ethnic community or single power bloc has a monopoly of concern and neither should have a monopoly of power over decisions relating to any foreign policy question.

We share the view enunciated by the Black Leadership Meeting of Aug. 21, 1979. In the aftermath of the forced resignation of U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, the Black Leadership Meeting convened and issued a statement declaring:

"Neither Jews, Italians, Germans, Irish, Chinese, British, French or whatever other ethnicity or nationally identifiable group has any more right to be involved in the development and conduct of United States foreign policy than Americans of African descent. If there is any single area where the melting pot concept applies, it is with foreign affairs. For we either all pursue the common interests of this nation together or help it sink separately."

We, Arab-Americans, do not want to impose Arab "solutions" or an Arab "agenda" on U.S. policy makers. Rather, we want a free and open debate leading, we hope, to a balanced and just U.S. Middle East policy.

The 1984 elections and the new political maturity of the Arab-American community mark a new beginning for America. This year there will be a debate on U.S. Middle East policy. We are not only determined that this happen, but we now have the power to ensure that it will happen. We are going to make America's democracy work.

Four simple ways to reduce child malnutrition

NEW YORK — Child malnutrition is not usually visible, isn't always caused by lack of food, and doesn't always mean that a child is hungry, according to this year's State of the World's Children report from UNICEF.

In most cases of child malnutrition, says the report, not even the mother can see that there is anything wrong. And usually there is enough food in the household to provide an adequate diet for the child.

UNICEF's 1984 report calls for a "children's revolution" — using low-cost techniques to save the lives of seven million children a year. But behind the report is an unspoken appeal for a more sophisticated understanding of the problem of child malnutrition.

Malnutrition is usually presented to the public — especially in the rich countries — as pictures of starving children. But only in extreme cases, says UNICEF, is malnutrition visible to the naked eye.

Its most common symptoms are invisible — low energy, slow growth, and reduced resistance.

A typical well-nourished European child, for example, spends up to two-and-a-half times as much energy in running in a poor community in Africa. And this "energy saving" usually happens just at the time when play and environmental stimulation are vital for the development of mental and physical skills.

Just as important, a malnourished child grows more slowly. Instead of letting the child's genetic potential determine its growth, the body begins to struggle against itself to keep growth down to a level which its food intake can sustain. But still the problem is invisible. Not even the most loving mother or the most

qualified paediatrician can detect slow growth just by looking.

What the parents may well notice is that the child seems to live from one minor illness to another — always suffering from a cold or diarrhoea or a fever. And here lies the heart of the malnutrition story. For frequent infection is both a chief cause and a chief consequence.

Lack of food is one reason for malnutrition. But there are equally important causes.

Intestinal parasites can cause malnutrition by consuming up to 25 per cent of a child's calorie intake. Changing from breastfeeding to bottle-feeding can expose a child to both malnutrition and infection at the same time. Not knowing that supplementary foods (in addition to breastmilk) are necessary from about the fourth or fifth month onwards leads to almost certain malnutrition. And lack of knowledge about a child's special nutritional needs — and how to meet them — can cause malnutrition even in households where adequate food is always available. But the most important cause of all is infection.

Infections cause malnutrition by consuming the body's energy, by reducing the body's absorption of food, by draining away nutrients through diarrhoea or vomiting, and by depressing the appetite so that the child simply doesn't want to eat.

In practice, the relative importance of infection and poor diets is less important than the truly deadly alliance between them. If a child is malnourished, infection is both more likely and more severe. Children with even moderate malnutrition are three times as likely to get diarrhoeal infections and ten times more likely to die from an infection like measles. Con-

versely, a child with an infection is also more likely to become malnourished. Frequent diarrhoeal infections can cut a child's growth rate in half and measles can take away up to 10 per cent of a child's bodyweight.

It is this vicious circle of malnutrition and infection which is constantly assaulting the growth of millions of the world's children. For those who live in the poorest parts of the world, it means an average of 160 days illness a year.

Four techniques
This re-definition of the child health problem sets the stage for the revolution in child survival and development which UNICEF now believes is possible. Simple low-cost techniques are now available for empowering parents to reduce the frequency and severity of assaults on their children's growth. The techniques are:

— Oral rehydration therapy — to prevent or cure the dehydration caused by diarrhoea. By far the biggest single cause of child death, diarrhoea is also one of the major causes of malnutrition and set-backs to growth.

— The promotion of present knowledge about the advantages of breastfeeding and the dangers of bottle-feeding. Children in poor communities who are bottle fed, says UNICEF, are many times more likely to contract infections and suffer set-backs to growth and development.

— Immunisation against the six main "immunisable" diseases of childhood which kill 5 million children a year and disable 5 million more. Because these infections also cause malnutrition, immunisation not only saves lives but also spaces out set-backs and helps to maintain normal healthy growth.

— Growth monitoring — using

simple 10 per cent charts to make a child's growth — or the lack of it — visible to the parents. With regular monthly weighing and advice from health workers, says UNICEF, growth charts can help parents themselves to see that a child needs more or better food, or more frequent feeding, or more persuasion to eat even when appetite is depressed.

"Making the problem visible to the mother," says UNICEF, "could be one of the simplest but most important of all steps towards protecting the healthy growth of many millions of infants in those vulnerable early years."

The revolutionary potential of these techniques resides in their combined effect. For just as malnutrition and infection can make each other more virulent, so an alliance of these four techniques can also increase the impact of each. "Every infection and weight loss which is prevented," says the report, "whether it be prevented by immunisation or by breastfeeding or oral rehydration or growth monitoring — makes another break in the cycle, puts more space between set-backs, allows more time for the child to recover, and so makes subsequent infections less likely. In short, the combined impact of these four principal strategies can be considerably greater than their individual contributions."

That is why UNICEF has come to believe that "these four techniques are in a class of their own at the present time. They empower parents themselves to protect their children's growth. They are low cost. They are available now. They are almost universally relevant. And they are aimed at the heart of the world's most important child health problem."

UNICEF

Randa Habib's Corner

Salesmen and cucumbers

For me, shopping does not necessarily mean entering a shop, choosing something, paying and going out.

Shopping is also window-shopping, browsing around and looking curiously at what is displayed...

It is also a pleasure that most women enjoy.

Unfortunately this is a pleasure that is denied to us most of the time in the shops of Amman. When we enter a shop, we feel that we should have already made a definite choice of what we want to buy.

So you enter in a shop selling clothes and immediately the sales person asks you: "What is it you want, madam"? You tell him that you want to have a look, refraining from telling him: "I didn't come here because I want three kilos of cucumbers."

The sales person will of course answer you: "please do." And then you go looking at the racks, thinking which dress would suit you more.

Then the sales person says: "You're looking for a dress?" You answer that you truly don't know what you want but you're looking at the dresses in case you find one that will tempt you. The sales person then asks: You have any particular colour in mind?"

And this dialogue goes on and on and you leave the shop quicker than you would have done otherwise.

Why can't they leave us the pleasure of just being curious? Very often a lady that was only thinking of browsing around ends up buying an article she hadn't thought of buying just because she felt at ease just looking around the shop.

So many times I have heard friends complaining about not entering a particular shop just because they have already been there twice and bought nothing.

As I was questioning this attitude they told me: "They look at us in a different way when we go out without having bought anything." This is outrageous.

Believe me, if the customer is free to browse around and if he feels that there is nothing that will force him to buy, business will be definitely better.

One last word for those gentlemen who sit outside their shops and call the passers-by: "come in please." — I think this is the best way to make the client run away.

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SPORTS

Wilander denies Lendl his long-awaited Grand Slam title

MELBOURNE (R) — World number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia tried everything from constant tactical changes to psychological warfare in his vain bid to win his first 'Grand Slam' tennis title here on Sunday.

But Swedish teenage star Mats Wilander never turned a hair as he added the Australian Open to his 1982 French title with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 victory over the top seed in the final on Kooyung's grass courts.

The defeat was a bitter disappointment for a travel-weary Lendl who has now reached and lost four 'Grand Slam' finals. He was runner-up to Bjorn Borg in the 1981 French Open and has lost to Jimmy Connors in the past two U.S. Open finals.

Despite his dislike of the surface, the 19-year-old third seed gave notice of his mastery of grass when he beat John McEnroe in the semifinals. He now has a 4-3 record over Lendl.

The Czechoslovak, who has said he is tired after a long year and anxious for a rest, looked half-

hearted as the two clay court experts slugged it out from the baseline.

Wilander shocked even himself with a dazzlingly versatile display, winning regularly on his excursions to the net to take full advantage of Lendl's untypically weak serves and volleys.

"I am very surprised that I won," he said.

The win earned the Swedish Davis Cup squad leader a massive financial windfall. He eclipsed Lendl to finish top of the Grand Prix standings, adding \$600,000 to his Australian Open winner's cheque of \$77,500.

Lendl, whose main aim in playing here was to win the Grand Prix bonus pool, finished second to pick up \$400,000 plus his Australian prize of \$38,500.

Wilander raced through the first set in 26 minutes, breaking the unusually vulnerable Lendl serve in the fourth and sixth games.

The Czechoslovak's first chance to break came only in the sixth game of the second set. Unperturbed, Wilander broke back immediately and took another break with a superbly placed lob which brought up baseline chalk to lead 5-4.

Lendl, who had constantly switched tactics in an effort to pressure Wilander, resorted to psychological warfare in the third game of the third set.

After Wilander had passed him with two sizzling shots, Lendl began joking with him and walked towards the net with his hand outstretched as if to indicate he was ready to concede defeat.

But Wilander, in the cool manner of Bjorn Borg, remained unflinched.

Lendl said later: "I just like to talk myself out of trouble a little bit. I thought he would lose his concentration but he didn't want

to play that game with me. I was trying to tell him off so it would blow up his concentration."

Wilander's sights are now set on Sweden's Davis Cup final with Australia starting here on Dec. 26.

"Here the main goal is to do well in the Davis Cup and I think that is why I played well, because I was relaxed all the time and no-one expected me to make the tournament," he said.

Wilander will play only doubles during next week's New South Wales Open as he builds up towards the Davis Cup.

Lendl said he had been unable to come up with a solid strategy in Sunday's clash.

Meanwhile, women's world number one Martina Navratilova, who on Saturday won her third consecutive 'Grand Slam' singles title, partnered fellow-American Pam Shriver to add the Australian Doubles Championship to their impressive collection.

U.S. regains World Golf Cup

JAKARTA (R) — Rex Caldwell shot a scintillating six-under-par final round of 66 to regain the World Cup golf title for the United States with a seven-stroke triumph over Canada and Australia at the Pondok Indah Club course here on Sunday.

The U.S. victors for the first time since 1979 and for the 26th time in the tournament's 30-year history, were trailing Canada by one shot overnight, with Australia one stroke behind.

But Caldwell took his rivals by storm with a five-birdie front nine of 32, which effectively sealed the U.S. win, and teammate John Cook turned in a solid round of 73, one over par.

"This is a great feeling," Caldwell said, while Cook added: "I'm thrilled to death."

Their four-round total was 565, 11 under par, giving the Americans \$10,000 each. Canada and Australia each scored 572, worth \$5,550 to each player.

Canadians Dave Barr and Jerry Anderson both shot 74 on Sunday and Barr collected the individual championship cup with a total of 276, after earlier rounds of 66, 67 and 69. Caldwell was second with 274.

Gremio keeps World Club title in South America

TOKYO (R) — Gremio of Brazil kept the World Club soccer crown in South America with a 2-1 extra time triumph over European Champions Hamburg here on Sunday.

The Libertadores Cup winners showed a punch in attack that the West German side, missing injured key strikers Dieter Schatzschneider and Thomas von Heesen, were unable to match.

Renato, one of six Brazilian internationals on show, kept Hamburg under constant pressure and well deserved his two goals — in the 37th minute and the third minute of extra time.

Ironically, Renato was off the field being treated for cramp when defender Michael Schroeder equalised in the 87th minute. But he should have wrapped up the match in the final minute of normal time when he volleyed over from 12 metres.

Trainer Ernst Happel said Hamburg had little time to overcome the effects of the eight-hour time difference between West Germany and Japan since arriving on Friday, two days after a shock home league defeat by Stuttgart.

"We should have been here eight days ago to acclimatise,"

said Happel. "The pitch was a catastrophe but that is no excuse for us."

Felix Magath, who played a commanding role in midfield but was unable to engineer goals, added: "This was not the Hamburg which won the European Cup final against Juventus."

Gremio coach Waldmir Espinosa said he saw the result as a victory for the individual skills of South American players over the speed and power of the West Germans.

But Happel countered by saying that the absence of his two top strikers, plus winger Juergen Milowski and defender Manfred Kaltz, also injured, hardly helped.

Gremio were the third Brazilian side to win the World Cup Championship, following Santos in 1962 and 1963 and Flamengo in 1981.

Last year, Penarol of Uruguay followed up Flamengo's 3-0 win over Liverpool of England by beating Aston Villa of England 2-0. In 1980 Uruguayan side Nacional Montevideo defeated England's Nottingham Forest 1-0.

Gremio's first goal arrived from a midfield pass by Paulo Cesar Lima. Renato sped down the

wing, swerved round Holger Hieronymus and placed his shot between the near post and goalkeeper Uli Stein's approaching left leg.

The equaliser stemmed from a midfield free kick by Magath, a high shot which found centre-back Ditmar Jakobs on the right hand side of the Gremio goal.

Jakobs headed to Schroeder who chested down the ball and slammed it home from close range.

Renato's match-winner, was another victory in his duel with the Hamburg defence. He took a long pass from midfield, controlled the ball as he ran across the goalmouth and shot left-footed.

Hamburg's fruitless attacks in the closing minutes left their goal exposed, and despite an effective offside trap, both Renato and Caio, brought on as a substitute, missed chances of further goals.

The German side were at a disadvantage during the extra period. They had only two players on the bench — reserve goalkeeper Uwe Hain and inexperienced defender Dieter Brehm — and were unable to throw in fresh men as their opponents had done earlier.

Both goalkeepers were booked within a minute of each other. Caio and Hamburg's Jimmy Hartwig were also booked.

Hagler named Fighter of the Year

LAS VEGAS (R) — Undisputed middleweight champion Marvelous Marvin Hagler was named Fighter of the Year at Saturday's World Boxing Council (WBC) annual convention.

Hagler, recognised as champion by both the WBC and the World Boxing Association (WBA), has defended his title three times this year, most recently on Nov. 10 when he scored a unanimous points decision over Roberto Duran of Panama.

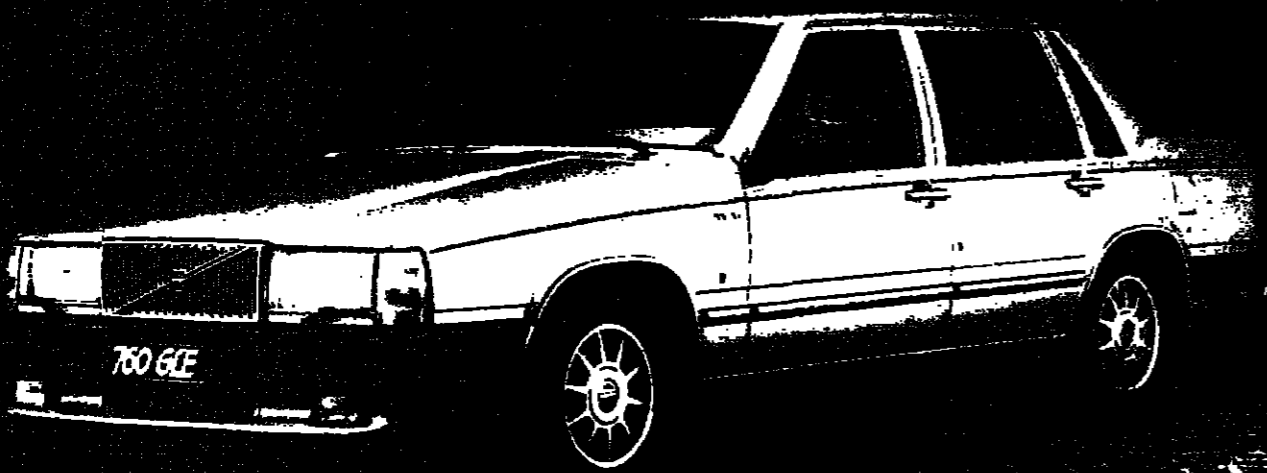
His other two 1983 defences resulted in knock-out victories over Tony Sibson of Britain and American Wilfred Scypion.

Hagler has held the undisputed championship since stopping Briton Alan Minter in three rounds in September 1980.

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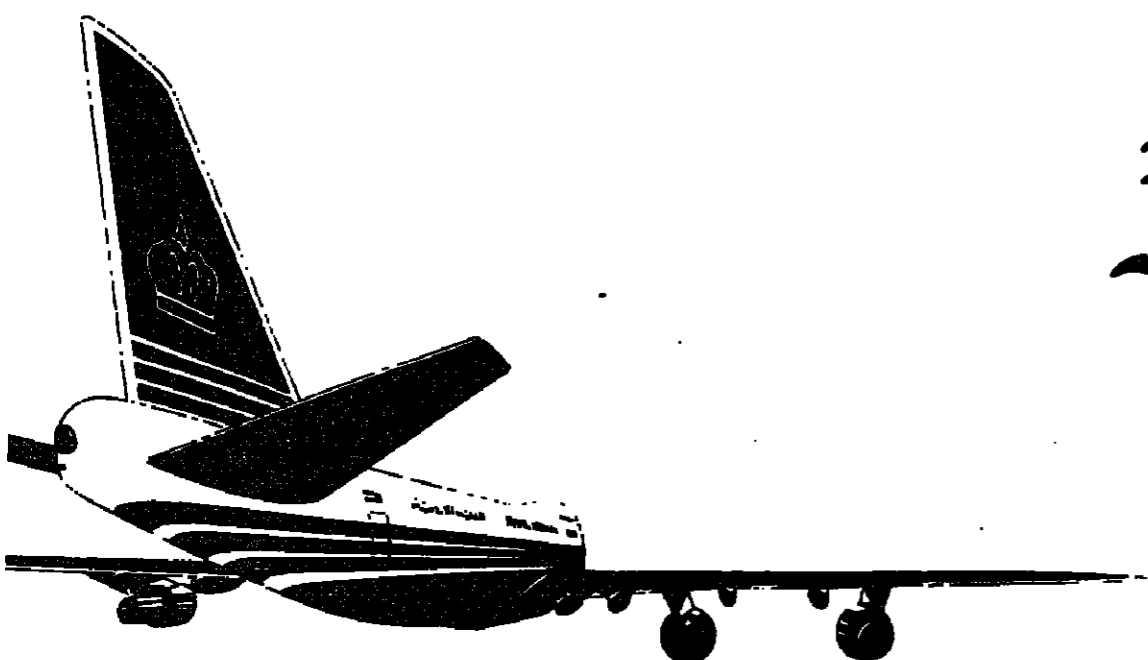
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WORLD

Thatcher signals peace to Alfonsin

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has sent a friendly message to Argentina's new civilian government signalling her desire for normal links despite the dispute over the Falkland Islands that brought the two nations to war last year.

Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, who was inaugurated in Buenos Aires Saturday, replied with a message of thanks that quoted an English saying: "Where there's a will, there's a way."

The exchange was the first between leaders of the two countries since the outbreak of the Falkland Islands war, which ended when British forces regained the colony in June, 1982.

Mrs. Thatcher has made no secret of her keenness to restore normal links with Argentina, but she has stressed she has no intention of negotiating over the sovereignty of the Falklands.

Britain's 4,000 troops defending the islands cost £600 million (\$900 million) a year but aides stressed that there are no plans to cut the garrison.

Mrs. Thatcher's personal message to Mr. Alfonsin rejoiced at the restoration of civilian dem-

ocratic rule in Argentina, saying that this brought "new hope to your country."

Mrs. Thatcher told Mr. Alfonsin: "On the occasion of your inauguration, I wanted to let you know that, although we have many differences, we can all take pleasure in the restoration of democracy to Argentina."

In the absence of diplomatic links between London and Buenos Aires, the message was passed on by a Swiss intermediary.

Mr. Alfonsin replied: "I coincide with your appraisal of the existence of differences between Argentina and the United Kingdom. Regarding this, it would be useful to remember an old English saying: 'Where there's a will, there's a way.'"

British newspapers hailed the Thatcher message as a major peace bid and the Sunday Express called it "an exceptional gesture of



Margaret Thatcher

conciliation."

The Observer said Mr. Alfonsin urged Mrs. Thatcher in an exclusive interview to consider reducing the 150-mile exclusion zone around the Falklands and freeze construction of the £215 million (\$325 million) new Falklands airport.

"I have no doubt that, if Mrs. Thatcher were to make such a move, we would regard this as a very positive step," he said.

Meanwhile, Latin American and Western European leaders in Argentina for the inauguration of President Raul Alfonsin were to

hold a series of talks Sunday focusing on the situation in Central America, diplomatic sources said.

Mr. Alfonsin, 57, was sworn in Saturday, following the landslide victory of his reformist Radical Party in a general election on Oct. 30.

His inauguration marked Argentina's return to democracy after nearly eight years of harsh military rule and was greeted by scenes of public jubilation.

A crowd of 150,000 cheering people gathered outside the presidential palace in central Buenos Aires and, in a brief speech, Mr. Alfonsin predicted "100 years of freedom, peace, democracy and respect for human rights" in his country.

Six Latin American presidents, four European prime ministers and U.S. Vice-President George Bush were among the foreign dignitaries present at the handover ceremonies.

A series of private meetings among the different heads of government began shortly afterwards, with troubled Central America the main topic of most conversations.

Mr. Bush had private talks with



Raul Alfonsin

Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry, French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, Guatemalan President Oscar Mejia Victores, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares.

There was speculation that he might also meet Daniel Ortega, the coordinator of Nicaragua's left-wing junta, before flying back to Washington, with a stopover in El Salvador.

London's Eros may disappear

By Raymond Gijzen

LONDON (R) — Eros, his aluminium skin cracked by pollution, one foot crushed and his bow twisted by tourists who climb over him in London's Piccadilly Circus, might have to disappear for 18 months for repairs.

Plans have been drawn up to remove the famous statue of Eros and the fountain on which it is mounted — once called "the heart of the empire" and a favourite spot for resting tourists — by next spring for extensive restoration work.

The repairs would coincide with improvements on Piccadilly Circus itself and its underground railway station, says Daryl Fowler of the historic buildings division of London's metropolitan government, the Greater London Council.

It will be the second time the statue has been removed since it was erected last century. In 1925 it had to make way for the construction of the underground railway.

The estimated 18 months work on the statue could cost several hundred thousand sterling, says Mr. Fowler. The council still has to give final approval of the project.

The official name of the Eros statue is the Shaftesbury memorial fountain. It was erected after the death in 1885 of Anthony Ashley Cooper, seventh earl of Shaftesbury and Britain's most famous Victorian philanthropist, known for his opposition to children working as chimney sweeps and in mines.

Correspondents saw U.S. servicemen and women in civilian clothes photographing demonstrators who formed a human chain underneath one of the Shaftesbury fountains in pouring rain.

U.S. naval officials within the barbed wire perimeter insisted they respected the Sicilians' democratic right of assembly, but the demonstration organisers complained at a rally in Catania about an "atmosphere of tension" around the base.

"These weapons generate terror in the population," Mr. Battiatto said in his Catania office. "There is a deliberate inactivity about all information to do with them."

Mr. Battiatto said the demonstration had been only a partial success. He blamed poor weather and mistakes by the organisers.

Italian guards with submachine guns patrol inside the barbed wire perimeter fence at Sigonella and dog-handlers hold Alsatians on leashes.

China calls for halt to 'moral pollution' drive in the countryside

PEKING (R) — China has called a halt to a campaign against "moral pollution" or subversive Western influence in the countryside, where 80 per cent of the country's one billion population lives.

The People's Daily quoted Deng Liqun, head of the Communist Party propaganda department who has previously stressed the dangers of "moral pollution," as saying the campaign should be kept within strict limits.

Mr. Deng condemned officials who accused young people of Western contamination simply because they dressed smartly, and said even those guilty of "moral pollution" should be educated and helped rather than terrorised as during the 1966-76 cultural revolution.

Officials have in the last two weeks stressed that the "moral pollution" campaign is aimed mainly at anti-communist and decadent ideas, not at banning the study of classical Western culture or at youths who wear smart clothes.

Diplomats said the campaign had been toned down since it started in October because its xenophobic tone was making foreign businessmen nervous of investing and because it had met fierce resistance from intellectuals who felt persecuted.

The People's Daily quoted Deng Liqun as saying: "The party central committee has decided that the slogan 'getting rid of moral pollution' should not be used in the countryside."

He said ideological problems in rural areas should be resolved by stressing patriotism and traditional Chinese virtues such as courtesy and respect for elders.

The order to end the campaign in the countryside followed reports that it had been used by Maoist officials to attack peasants who have become rich through recent liberal economic reforms.

Extreme leftists are deeply opposed to the reforms, which they regard as a betrayal of Maoist principles.

U.S. missiles, beef arrive in Sicily

CATANIA, Sicily (R) — The U.S. military transport planes that come in low over the citrus groves at Sigonella are now carrying cruise missile components as well as their usual cargo of American beefsteak and soft drinks.

The C-5A Galaxy and C-141 transports started bringing the medium-range nuclear missile parts to Sicily last month, but U.S. and Italian officials are not saying how many have arrived.

Sigonella is a fast-growing 485-hectare NATO base shared by the U.S. navy and Italian air force on the Catania plain south of snow-capped Mount Etna.

It houses an Italian air force flight of Breguet Atlantiques and a squadron of U.S. Navy P-3C Orion aircraft which take off at regular intervals over the Ionian sea for anti-submarine missions in the Mediterranean.

The base is also growing in importance as a supply station for the U.S. Sixth Fleet. It has a variable population of about 5,000 American servicemen and their families, plus 2,000 Italians, a U.S. navy spokesman said.

Earlier this month, 7,000 Sicilians demonstrated outside Sigonella against NATO plans to deploy the first cruise missiles in Sicily next March if U.S.-Soviet negotiations on medium-range

nuclear arms remain stalled.

The Italian government has said the components are being stored at Sigonella until an obsolete aerodrome at Comiso, southern Sicily, has been converted into a permanent base for the ground-launched rockets.

The Turin daily La Stampa reported from Catania last week that armed guards watched day and night over the missile parts, encased in metal in an underground bunker, with orders to shoot if anybody crossed the threshold.

A U.S. naval spokesman said he could not comment on details of the missiles storage, but he denied a press report that leave for U.S. personnel had been cancelled since the components started landing.

The Sicilian peace committees which organised last Sunday's demonstration say the cruise parts fit into an overall NATO strategy for the militarisation of Sicily.

"They are turning this island into an aircraft carrier," Carlo Battiatto, a member of the provincial Communist Party's central committee, told a visiting reporter.

Abrogation of the Anglo-Maltese defence accords in March 1979 and uncertainty about the future of NATO bases in Cyprus and Greece have forced NATO

generals to rediscover the strategic importance of Sicily, the anti-cruise lobby says.

New U.S. residential quarters have been built at Sigonella recently and there are plans for an artillery range among the wooded hills north of Catania.

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Prima Linea defendants get harsh prison terms

TURIN, Italy (R) — Judges have imposed nine life sentences and six prison terms of 30 years or more at the end of a six-month trial of 134 leftists of the "Prima Linea" (front line) extremist group.

The defendants, caged behind steel bars during the mass trial, faced hundreds of charges on 106 separate acts of political violence including eight murders, 12 attempted murders, arson and armed robbery.

The leaders of the group were sent to jail for life. They are Maurice Bignami, Francesco D'Urso, Diego Foresti, Bruno Laronga, Silverio Rosso, Susanna Ronconi, Sergio Segio, Liviana Tosi and Roberto Rosso.

The prosecutors had asked for 32 life terms but the judges showed leniency to defendants who during the trial have renounced "the

armed struggle," admitted making mistakes or helped investigators.

Arco Donat Cattin, son of a Christian Democrat senator, was given an eight-year suspended sentence but will remain in prison to finish sentences imposed in other trials.

Most of the others given suspended sentences also still have their terms to serve and only two will be freed immediately. Seven defendants were acquitted.

Giulia Borelli, who last month gave birth to twins conceived during the trial, was sentenced to 30 years, along with her husband Enrico Galmozzi. The prosecution had demanded life. The couple are already serving sentences passed by other courts.

"Prima Linea" was loosely affiliated with the better-known Red Brigades.

Britain sees massive occult boom

By Judith Matloff Reuter

LONDON — Britain is seeing its biggest occult explosion in a century, as hoards of people are turning to witchcraft, magic rituals and astrology.

Over the past five years hundreds of Britons have signed up for correspondence courses in spells, astrology reports a 10-fold increase in clients. Occult shop owners say sales of herbs, pyramids and crystal balls have been booming.

"It is the biggest occult explosion in Britain since the 1960s," said Marian Green, an organiser of esoteric events and a writer on the occult, referring to what she and other occult experts regard as Britain's last big occult wave.

Attendance at the recent "aquarian festival" totalled 5,000 people and readership of "Prediction" magazine has reached about 20,000, she said. She maintains that all the major current British occult festivals and publications sprang up only in the past six years.

Scholars of the occult agree that this latest boom, which had its roots in the 1960s hippie movement, has taken off in the past six years as concern over social problems grows.

"Interest in magic grew out of the economic expansion of the 1960s but it has also provided solace in the economic recession of the 1980s," says Tanya Lohmann, a Harvard-trained anthropologist doing a study on the occult at Cambridge University.

Kevin Grove, one founder of the "Camden Town psychic centre" in the lively north London district known as Camden Town, says some people are using magical spells and other occult rituals as a way to exert power and influence over the world around them.

He says many of the clients visiting the centre's 22 astrologists, futurologists, and palm and tarot card readers are seeking jobs and cheap housing, stock exchange predictions and an end to the build-up of nuclear weapons.

Two similar centres were also formed over the past two years, one in Baker Street, legendary home of Sherlock Holmes, and one near Trafalgar Square.

Ms. Lohmann says one of the fastest-growing areas of the occult is witchcraft. She estimates that the number of "initiated" has more than doubled from 10 years ago, with perhaps several thousand practising witchcraft.

She maintains that even before 1951, when Britain lifted a legal ban against witchcraft, the secret cults have attracted many ordinary people who do not seem to be maladjusted in their jobs or personal lives.

Several "witches" interviewed in London agree that for many of their ilk witchcraft was a direct

spin-off from the feminist movement, with many women being drawn by its lack of hierarchy and patriarchal worship of a pagan earth mother.

Another "witch", sitting in a north London flat filled with dried herbs, statues of ancient Indian and Greek fertility goddesses and photographs of various pagan rituals, alleged that a handful of anti-nuclear activists had used magical rituals in their protests against the deployment of missiles.

She said some women had formed magic circles to "evolve the earth's power against the nuclear male disease" and last summer constructed a huge green dragon symbolising "mother earth".

10-cents packets of salts could save millions of children, UNICEF says

BRUSSELS (R) — Every six seconds a child dies in the Third World for want of a 10-cent packet of rehydration salts, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says in a report published here.

But in villages in Guatemala, Honduras, Egypt, India and Bangladesh, half such potential victims are now being saved following a year-long UNICEF campaign to promote the salts, which prevent death from dehydration caused by severe diarrhoea.

Last year, UNICEF started the campaign by saying that this simple remedy, combined with three other self-help measures, could save 20,000 young lives daily without increasing the financial burden on recession-strained national coffers.

"We've got a long way to go before we harvest the seeds planted last year," said UNICEF executive director James Grant in an interview. But, he added, "I can see the signs of a survival revolution beginning already."

"We're talking about avoiding a Hiroshima every six days," Mr. Grant said. The aim is to cut chil-

hood deaths by half by the end of the century.

UNICEF's four-point programme for achieving this goal has won enthusiastic approval from world leaders ranging from conservative U.S. President Reagan to socialist Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

In statements released by UNICEF, Mr. Reagan pledged support for the plan while Mr. Nyerere said simply: "We will do it."

The most dramatic point in the programme is the promotion of the rehydration salts, which could virtually erase diarrhoea from the list of major child-killers by the end of the decade, saving five million lives each year.

More than 30 countries now produce the salts, which are mixed with water and given orally to the child at home, saving the lives of children who cannot reach, or could not afford, expensive intravenous treatment at a hospital or clinic.

Where pre-packaged salts are not available, mothers can improvise by mixing household supplies of salt and sugar.

Promotion of "oral rehydration therapy" has had dramatic results, Mr. Grant said.

In Haiti, hospital beds normally filled with diarrhoea cases are going empty, while in Nicaragua the disease fell from first to fifth place as a killer of the country's children.

Rehydration salts alone are not enough to bring about the "survival revolution," according to the report. Breast-feeding, immunisation and "growth monitoring" to detect latent malnutrition must also be promoted, it says.

Bottle-fed infants are five times more likely to die than breast-fed children, and 100 nations have begun campaigns to combat milk substitutes. In Papua New Guinea, for example, where the average man earns \$840 in a year, supplying a feeding bottle attracts a \$300 fine.

Immunisations could prevent five million deaths per year, while simple growth charts can help reveal the 99 per cent of all malnutrition cases which are invisible to the naked eye.

McNamara urges pullout of missiles as U.K. sees nuclear film

LONDON (R) — Former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara said in a television discussion after more than 10 million Britons watched the nuclear holocaust film "The Day After" Saturday night that America's cruise and Pershing-2 missiles should be withdrawn from Europe.

Asked whether this would lessen the chance of "The Day After" becoming reality, he replied: "Yes. That is one action, relatively small and unimportant, that would reduce the risk of nuclear war."

"I am in favour of it as soon as it can be done without reducing the confidence of the Europeans of U.S. support in the defence of Europe," said Mr. McNamara, defence secretary from 1961 to 1968 under presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

Mr. McNamara, who has advocated a series of steps to reduce the risk of nuclear war, said the only military use for nuclear weapons was to deter someone else from using them.

The controversial television film, dramatising the destruction of a small American town in a nuclear war, was screened in Britain three weeks after being shown in the United States and gave fresh impetus to an already impassioned public nuclear debate.

Most Britons found it chilling although some commentators likened it to soap operas like "Dallas," also seen in Britain.

Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine said on television that its impact was horrifying but, like President Reagan, he argued that Western policies were designed to stop it becoming reality.

Mr. Heseltine cancelled a planned appearance on an early show Sunday to discuss the film after learning that Bruce Kent, head of Britain's anti-nuclear movement, had also been invited to take part.

Mr. Kent's big campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) issued leaflets to coincide with the film's screening and activists manned telephones to deal with an expected flood of inquiries.

Yorkshire television, the company that originated the film for nationwide viewing, said it had received many calls and commented: "It has obviously roused emotive issues."

"The Day After" had prompted plenty of advance press comment in Britain, where the nuclear debate has intensified over the current deployment of cruise medium-range missiles to counter Soviet SS-20s targeted on Western Europe.

As many as 50,000 women were expected to converge Sunday on Greenham Common airbase, where cruise missiles will become operational this month, to embrace the installation in a giant human circle by linking hands.

'Nuclear war could end all human life'

WASHINGTON (R) — Soviet and American scientists have agreed that a large nuclear attack would plunge the world into a prolonged dark winter and could result in the destruction of all human life.

Eight scientists, including four of the Soviet Union's most distinguished researchers, made a rare joint appearance at a forum on the after-effects of nuclear war.

Dr. Vladimir Aleksandrov of the Soviet Academy of Sciences gave this gloomy assessment of life after nuclear war:

"Practically regardless of the scenario, the survivors of the first strike would find themselves in the conditions of severe cold, lack of water, food and fuel, affected by powerful radiation, pollution, diseases, in the conditions of utmost psychological stress, with all that happening in twilight or in darkness."

The U.S. and Soviet scientists contradicted reports that the southern hemisphere would survive an attack and ridiculed a new report by U.S. civil defence experts suggesting survivors of a nuclear war would be able to produce adequate food.

"They are not even close," said Dr. Paul Erlich of Stanford University.

Dr. Carl Sagan, an Astrophysicist at Cornell University, said the nuclear winter would be triggered when high altitude nuclear fallout dust and low altitude nuclear war clouds combined, preventing sunlight from reaching earth.

COLUMN

Begin leaves home after 102 days

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin left his official residence Saturday night for the first time in 102 days to move into his new quarters in a Jerusalem suburb. Mr. Begin had not left his home since submitting his resignation. Close associates said he was suffering from severe depression. Eyewitnesses said he was driven to his new quarters after the Jewish sabbath finished Saturday night. He was accompanied by his son, Binyamin.

Viennese decry music in subway

VIENNA (R) — The Viennese, lovers of Beethoven, Brahms and Mozart, are arguing about a scheme to force-feed them light music in underground railway stations. The Vienna underground system introduced the music last week for a three-month trial period, piping it via Vienna radio through hundreds of loudspeakers on station platforms from six o'clock in the morning to 10 at night. A commentator in the daily Die Presse described the underground officials as sound sadists and said either they should hand out headsets as on airlines or "put a stop to this monkey business."

Soviet managers scared of robots

MOSCOW (R) — Many Soviet managers and workers are terrified of new technology and their resistance to change is slowing down the modernisation of industry, the Communist Party daily Pravda said. It said a psychosis which could be described as "robotophobia" had gripped much of the country's industry and as a result new equipment was not being installed even when it was offered to factories. The newspaper said that when new technology was put in place it was often drastically under-used. Pravda said the root of the problem lay in psychological conservatism and a fear of anything new among managers and workers.

Nakasone has misgivings about British carrier

MIYAZAKI, Japan (R) — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Japan would not allow a goodwill visit by the British aircraft carrier Invincible if it was carrying nuclear weapons. At a press conference in this southern Japanese city, Mr. Nakasone said his government would apply Japan's long-standing policy of not allowing ships carrying nuclear weapons into its harbours. On Thursday Australia barred the Invincible from using a dry dock to carry out repair because Britain refused to say whether it was carrying nuclear weapons.

16 arrested in the Philippines

MANILA (R) — At least 16 people were arrested for obstructing traffic and burning car tyres in the Philippines capital during anti-government protests, police said. The arrests were made during separate protests in different parts of Manila Saturday. Baton-wielding police broke up a demonstration by some 150 people who gathered under two military camps to protest over human rights violations in the country.

Many feared dead in Tanzanian crash

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Many people are feared to have died when the engine and six coaches of a train were derailed in the Dodoma area of central Tanzania Saturday, the Mzalendo newspaper of the ruling Revolutionary Party said Sunday. Police said they had recovered 13 bodies and counted 65 injured. Details were sketchy but communications and transport minister John Masekela was quoted by the newspaper as saying he had heard that hundreds may have died. He said the cause of the derailment was not known. Many schoolchildren were feared to have been on the train, which was heading for Dar Es Salaam from the provincial town of Tabora, the newspaper added.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K83 ♠95 ♠AK7 ♠A1093
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass 3 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Q.2 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A ♠KQ107642 ♠93 ♠72
Partner opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you take?

Q.3 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ1095 ♠AQ107 ♠82 ♠K6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
7
What do you bid now?

Q.4 — As South vulnerable, you hold:
♠K87 ♠AK53 ♠763 ♠962
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠5 ♠KQJ72 ♠QJ92 ♠Q54
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠95 ♠7 ♠K8763 ♠AJ82
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?